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WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA
AND RELATED INTOLERANCE
Preparatory Committee
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda

REPORTS, STUDIES AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Contribution of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 52 of its resolution 1998/26, the Commission on Human Rights invited the Sub-Commission to carry out studies without delay, within the framework of the objectives laid down in General Assembly resolution 52/111, and to submit its recommendations to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session and, through the Commission, to the Preparatory Committee. At its fifty-fifth session, the Commission, in its resolution 1999/78, invited the Sub-Commission to participate actively in the preparatory process with a view to ensuring the success of the World Conference (para. 61), and requested the Sub-Commission to undertake a study on ways of making United Nations activities and mechanisms in the context of programmes aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance more effective (para. 62).

GE.00-11249 (E)

2. At its fiftieth session, the Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1998/6, entitled "World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance", requested Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro to prepare a paper on proposals for the work of the World Conference. The Sub-Commission also decided to entrust Mr. David Weissbrodt and Mr. Joseph Oloka-Onyango with the preparation of working papers on, respectively, the rights of persons who are not citizens of the country in which they live (decision 1998/103) and on the topic of globalization in the context of the increase in incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia (decision 1998/104).

3. At its fifty-first session, the Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1999/6, entitled "World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance", welcomed the work done thus far in preparation for the World Conference, including the Sub-Commission's decision to appoint Mr. Marc Bossuyt as Special Rapporteur with the task of preparing a study on the concept and practice of affirmative action based on his working paper (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/5); the working paper prepared by Mr. Weissbrodt on the rights of non-citizens (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/7 and Add.1); the working paper prepared by Mr. Oloka-Onyango on globalization in the context of increased incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1999/8); and the oral presentation by Mr. Pinheiro on proposals for the work of the World Conference.

4. In that resolution, the Sub-Commission, inter alia, recommended to the Preparatory Committee that the World Conference devote considerable attention to the overall themes of equality and diversity in an effort to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Sub-Commission suggested that the World Conference focus, inter alia, on situations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, related intolerance and ethnic conflict and other patterns of discrimination that are based on race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin or gender, as well as on the topics of:

(a) The current realities in the aftermath of slavery and colonialism, including the legal implications of the slave trade and the conditions of persons of African descent in the Americas;

(b) The impact of economic globalization on racial equality, including globalization in the context of the increase in incidents of racism, and the economic basis of racism;

(c) The treatment of migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, other non-citizens and displaced persons, as well as the related phenomenon of xenophobia;

(d) The prevention of racial discrimination, including early warning and urgent procedures, as well as the accountability of non-State actors;

(e) The prevention of racial discrimination through education and labour regulation;

(f) Remedies, redress mechanisms and reparations for racial discrimination, including affirmative action, and compensation for victims and descendants of victims of racism;

(g) International mechanisms for the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and their progressive development, as well as reservations to the Convention;

(h) Combating hate speech and promoting tolerance in the digital age;

(i) The implications of multiple identities (race, colour, descent, minority, national or ethnic origin, gender);

(j) Means to be applied to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

The Sub-Commission also recommended that the World Conference define a global and system-wide strategy to combat racism and racial discrimination which could lead to concrete results for the populations affected.

5. The working paper on proposals for the work of the World Conference prepared by Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro is contained in an addendum to the present document (A/CONF.189/PC.1/13/Add.1). Working papers prepared by other members of the Sub-Commission as a contribution to the preparatory process for the World Conference (see para. 3 above) will be made available to the Preparatory Committee as background documents.